

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 31st March 1877.

THE *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 14th March, has the following observations on Act VII (B.C.) of 1876:—"The wording of this Act is not clear, and the meaning cannot therefore be easily comprehended; thus giving rise to different interpretations. Even in the Collector's Court, no satisfactory explanation could be given of the many difficult sections pointed out. The period also within which names are to be registered is about to expire; and considering the penalties prescribed for failure to do so within the stated time, the matter has altogether caused serious uneasiness. Poor and helpless talukdars and widows, possessing landed property, fear that they are about to be ruined, as they cannot afford to employ the services of a pleader or mukhtar to manage their affairs; nor are they able to incur any considerable expense. We, therefore, beseech the local authorities to have notifications, containing full particulars of what is required, stuck up in conspicuous places in all districts."

BISHWA SUHRID,  
March 14th, 1877.  
Circulation about 450.

2. The same paper directs the attention of Government to the wretched and dilapidated condition of the jail and the court-houses of the Mymensingh district. The pleaders, omlah, and suitors are all seriously inconvenienced for want of sufficient accommodation; for which cause also the records lie in a very unsafe state.

BISHWA SUHRID.

3. After commending the intelligence and public-spiritedness of the members of the British Indian Association, which constantly represent the views of the people on the acts of Government, the same paper refers to the meeting lately held to consider the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code Bill. The editor approves generally of the resolutions adopted, but makes the following comments on the strictures passed by Dr. Rájendra Lál Mitra on sections 209 and 210. "These sections will not probably be attended, in practice, with such injurious consequences as seem to be apprehended by the esteemed members. It seems they are not well acquainted with the state of matters in the mofussil, where money-lenders have reduced their debtors to extreme misery occasioning trouble and difficulty to both landlords and themselves. While the zemindar makes unjust and inopportune demands, the mahajuns ask for a high rate of interest; which the borrower is from circumstances compelled to agree to at the time, though it proves ruinous to him in the end. It is not to be wondered at, that a rate of six per cent. per annum should be considered as very low, by those who have seen Moonsifs' Courts sometimes decree interest at the rate of Rs. 270 per cent. By the courts in the mofussil, interest at the rate of 6 per cent. is generally allowed from the date of the decree. A lower rate, however, may be occasionally noticed, but it is never higher than 12 per cent. Such decrees have not discouraged the practice of usury; nor is there any reason why it should.

BISHWA SUHRID.



The creditors do not generally buoy themselves up with hopes of obtaining interest after the decree, having realized as much as possible before that event. In case, however, interest was not properly paid, the whole amount would be sued for, and a decree obtained according to the terms of the agreement between the parties. It is only after the decree has been obtained that the rate of interest is lowered. We fail to see how the speakers could have betrayed such ignorance on this matter, and charged the Hon'ble Member entrusted with the Bill with a want of foresight. He has not proposed anything new, but has only sought to give the sanction of law to a practice which has existed for a long time past. It was observed, by Rajah Digamber Mittra, that the trouble of the decree-holder commences from the date of the decree. Perhaps, in making this remark, he had in mind an observation of Sir Barnes Peacock to the same effect; but he possibly did not think of the class of suits, which elicited that remark from the late Chief Justice of Bengal. In suits cognizable by the Small Cause Court, as well in those relating to money transactions, there is no trouble experienced after the decree has been obtained. Hence creditors have little ground for fear; though, we confess, the matter would have been otherwise, if, notwithstanding any prior contract, interest had been invariably decreed at 12 per cent. Since nothing has been said on this head, it is both idle and groundless to urge that the freedom of contract has been in any way interfered with by the action of the legislature in the present case."

BISHWA SUHRID,  
March 14th, 1877.

4. The same paper condemns the constant hankering after situations in the public service, which characterizes the Bengalis, and which is a bar to all progress. The writer exhorts them to take to arts, manufactures, and other independent pursuits.

BISHWA SUHRID,  
March 21st, 1877.

5. The same paper, of the 21st March, thus remarks in its opening editorial paragraph:—"It is owing to its constitutional character alone that the British Government is regarded as occupying so high a place among civilized Governments; but the way in which certain laws have been recently passed has raised many doubts in the minds of the people in this respect, and not a few now look upon our present form of government as a despotism. It is certainly despotic when the rulers act against the wishes of the people, and, in matters of legislation, rarely heed the representations of any body of men. Government cared not in the least for the strong opposition made by the public to the Criminal Procedure Code Bill and the Bills relating to Dramatic Performances and the Presidency Magistrates; and they were passed into law without any reference to the condition or circumstances of the people; and yet this should not appear strange, considering that the natives only, and not the rulers, suffer from these laws."

BISHWA SUHRID.

6. The same paper notices the gradual silting up of the Brahmaputra river below Jamalpore, in parts of the Mymensingh district, and asks Government to use means to set free the channel. It is the only river in this part of the country, and affords facilities of communication which cannot be too highly prized by the people.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
March 21st, 1877.

7. In an editorial headed the "Same crime differently punished," the *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 21st March, writes as follows:—"We find that most of the Europeans in the Judicial Service betray a partiality towards men of their own race, and are greatly opposed to the elevation of natives to the same status with themselves. For this reason, they do not, in the least, hesitate to do things which sound morality cannot approve. The offence of a European is made light of; and the punishment inflicted on



him is so nominal, that it is rather relished than otherwise by the offender. It is, however, not the same in the case of a native, whose offence, even when it is trivial, is visited with severe punishment. The Fuller case is well known. Mr. Fuller, accused of murder, was let off with a fine of Rs. 30; while a native lad, who had occasioned the death of another by throwing him into a well, was sentenced by the Punjab High Court to imprisonment for life. In another case, a European soldier in Lahore received only one year's imprisonment for having killed a native lad. How sound these judgments! Even, if both offenders, the European and the native, had received the same punishment, would they be subjected to the same treatment in jail? Never. The treatment which a European prisoner receives in jail is as lenient as it is cruel towards the native. Europeans, while in jail, are always making unreasonable demands, which are supported by the Anglo-Indian Press. Government, too, is obliged to make concessions. No one, however, attends to the hard treatment of natives; and why should it be otherwise? They are not, it seems, made of flesh and blood, and can bear all manner of hardships. They are laughed at as being ambitious of luxury, should they ask for fish when in jail; but one is really lost in astonishment to hear the demands sometimes made by European prisoners. One of the European inmates of the Lahore Jail lately complained to the Inspector-General that he was not allowed gram-fed mutton, a luxury which he had been in the habit of indulging in previous to his confinement! Certainly the complaint was not to be lightly passed over, for could any one endure such self-denial? It therefore seems probable that Government will accede to his demand, though a complaint of this nature by a native would have doubtless cost him his head. We have thus in many instances seen European Judges award different punishments for the same offence. Does not this clearly show that they do not possess the least sympathy towards the natives of India? It is the action of these men, which is doing so much evil, by perpetuating a feeling of race antagonism in India. It would be difficult to tell what inhuman acts might not be committed by men of this stamp. It was formerly the practice to grant to a prisoner, sentenced to capital punishment, a rupee as diet-money. This, however, has been latterly discontinued on grounds of economy; though European prisoners, on their acquittal, are still granted travelling allowance to enable them to reach their destination. We do not find fault with this. What we desire to ask is—What has the public exchequer gained from discontinuing this diet-money to one who is about to leave the world? Be that as it may, Government is lowering itself in the esteem of the public by such acts; and it will never be popular so long as these wrongs remain unredressed; nor is it easy for Government, when unpopular, to carry on its operations. It is a matter of shame and disgrace that in this nineteenth century, under the British rule, there is such a distinction made between European and Native offenders. May not this fact make the English nation a laughing-stock before other civilized nations of the world?"

8. Although, among the members of the Judicial Service, observes the same paper, corruption and bribery do not prevail to the same extent as it did formerly, the ends of justice are continually jeopardized and occasionally frustrated by the existence of another evil, which calls for prompt removal. This is the influence of recommendations, which is often brought to bear upon the judgments of the officers engaged in judicial work. Native as well as European Judges being subject to this influence, it behoves Government, through the High Court, to exercise a vigorous and efficient check upon the work of the subordinate courts.

HINDU RANJIKA,  
March 21st, 1877.



BHARAT MIHIR,  
March 22nd, 1877.  
Circulation about 650.

9. We give below the substance of an article headed the "Bengal zemindar" in the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 22nd March :—"We have not sufficient acquaintance with the landlords who possess estates in the metropolitan districts; and so these remarks are applicable to those of Eastern Bengal only.

"The latter are, as a class, uneducated, though not wholly illiterate. They can sign their names, read and understand documents, and, in complicated litigations, know well what secret spring is to be touched to turn the tide of events in their favor. Those especially that are young and active, who may have perhaps tasted the sweets of drink, show to some extent an acquaintance with the English language. Few of the landlords, however, can boast of having received any education worthy of the name, or of a kind which sharpens the intellect, enlarges the heart, and develops the noble feelings of our nature.

"Landlords always love to be surrounded by flatterers. This disposition is doubtless due to their lack of education. Themselves uneducated, they entrust the management of their estates to illiterate naibs, whose monthly salary is not more than Rs. 10. If of a niggardly disposition, they lay up hordes of money in iron coffers; if spendthrifts and given to luxury, money flows like water, and the estate is soon encumbered with debt. The evil of absenteeism reigns supreme among the Bengal zemindars; few during their lives, or even at intervals of ten or twelve years, visit their estates; and they are satisfied so long as the regular instalments of rent are realized. The majority of them do not attend to the improvement of the land, or the condition of the tenantry.

"The landlords are independent only in name. They are ruled by their wives, the females of the zenana, and even by old servants and maidservants. Whenever any serious matter is to be considered, the omlah hold a meeting among themselves; the flatterers of the zemindar call a second; while a third is held by his son, if of age, in consultation with his own companions. The landlords constantly change their opinions. No conscientious person can long remain in their service; for, being a good man, alone among unprincipled officers, his faults are continually repeated to his master.

"The zemindar is wanting in courtesy to those who have occasion to go to him. There are of course honourable exceptions, notable among whom are Rajah Kalinarayan Roy Bahadoor of Bhowal, and Nawab Khajeh Abdul Guni of Dacca."

BHARAT MIHIR.

10. The same paper makes the following observations on the Civil Procedure Code Bill :—"We again beseech Sir A. Hobhouse to move slowly in this matter. The abolition of usury, and the consequent restrictions on the free circulation of capital and the progress of commerce; the increase of difficulties in the way of execution of decrees; the injury which is likely to result to the interests of decree-holders; and the curtailment of the power, and, therefore, of the dignity of Moonsifs and Subordinate Judges—all these have created a profound agitation among the people in Bengal. Sir A. Hobhouse perhaps knows better than anybody else that the object of all sound legislation is to allay discontent and not to create it. We cannot yet believe that, in utter defiance of the public opinion of this country, he will continue to be ruled by the counsels of Cockerell, Bell, Hope, Bayley, and others.

"It is unnecessary to advert to the amendments in the Bill which have been improvements; we shall only refer to its defects. But before proceeding



to point out what seem to us its chief imperfections, some minor points will receive our attention.

"Explanation II under section 13. This section has been substituted for section 2 of the present code. Considering that in many places, even at the present day, plaints and written statements are drawn up by uneducated men, the stringent provisions here laid down, will, if carried out in practice, be fraught with difficulties of no common kind. Section 40 will also have the same injurious effect as to the rights of the parties in a law-suit. Litigation will be made more expensive than ever, if under section 52, the examination of witnesses commences at the verification of the plaint. It would be better if it were ruled that the examination of the witnesses attesting the plaintiff's signature should be made only if the court sees reason for any doubts. By the introduction of section 117 will be brought about the same inextricable confusion as to the papers which prevailed before. Section 178 lays down that the failure of any party to attend as a witness shall be punishable as an offence under the Indian Penal Code. Would it not be enough if the case were only directed to be decided *ex parte*, and against the defaulting party? What is the use of this double punishment?

"It would certainly bring misery on the country if sections 209, 210, 320, 321, 322, 323, and 324 were passed in their present form. The hardships of those who are obliged to borrow would rather be increased if that were done. Sir A. Hobhouse has fallen into a serious error. In one portion of the report of the select committee this remark occurs:—'In money decrees, we think (section 209) that the interest allowed from the date of the decree should not exceed 6 per cent. per annum. This, we hope, will abolish the practice of creating such decrees as desirable investments.' Doubtless, such an erroneous statement would not have been made if it were known how difficult it is to realize the amount of the decree. It is but too true that the troubles of the decree-holder commence from the date of the decree. The debtor resorts to every means in his power (*lit.* earthly as well as unearthly) to evade the payment of debt; there are repeated adjournments; objections are raised at every step: but the money is not paid. All these sections relating to loan transactions will produce incalculable mischief. The practice of usury will not indeed be discontinued; but, instead of the good which the legislature intends to do the debtor, evil will accrue. Sections 230, 266, 303, 342, and 416 are all objectionable, as placing difficulties in the way of decree-holders."

11. In a lengthy editorial on the Viceroy's speech in the Senate House, the same paper makes very nearly the same observations as those noticed in paragraph 18 of our last Report, and concludes by remarking that "the speech has given us an impression that Government does not question the talents and ability of the natives for filling superior appointments in the public service, but that it cannot yet bring itself to trust them completely. As a miser is constantly haunted with a fear of robbers, so this all-absorbing feeling of distrust has taken complete possession of the hearts of our rulers. This it is which accounts for the exclusion of natives from all high offices under the State and from the Military service. This shows why the whole of India has been disarmed. This thought is ever present in the mind of Government; and so long as this continues, we cannot expect to reap any good at its hands; while, on the other hand, the British rule also will not be established on the firm foundation which is afforded by the devotion of the people."

BHARAT MIHIR,  
March 22nd, 1877.  
Circulation about 850.



AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
March 22nd, 1877.  
Circulation about 2,217.

12. We extract the following observations from an editorial in the *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 22nd March, on Sir John Strachey's financial statement:—"The very name of a license tax always sends a thrill of horror through the hearts of the people, yet this will be imposed in the North-Western Provinces. It is not yet settled what new form of assessment is to be introduced into Bengal; but Government, it seems, does not desire to impose any new tax, but merely increase the rates of some one of those already existing in the province. Possibly it will be the road cess, the increase of which will saddle the people of Bengal with an additional burden. Sir John Strachey labored much to show that this was not wrong. His eloquence may, indeed, have effect upon himself and others who will not be affected by the measure; but he will not, we think, be disposed to blame the poor, who, from their pockets being touched, may fail to see the force of his reasoning. The grounds on which he bases his scheme, of throwing the expenditure of local works upon local Governments, are not open to any objections, but it is wanting in one particular to render it complete. They should have perfect control over their income. If the Government of Bengal were allowed unrestricted authority in the disposal and expenditure of its revenue for the good of its own provinces, instead of the Imperial Government contributing to our needs, we should be rather in a position to relieve it of a portion of its burdens. The principal sources from which Bengal now derives her revenues are in the hands of the Imperial Government; as, for instance, the revenues derived from land and opium, forest, excise, customs, and salt duties, postage and stamp duties. A few only, as the income from the jail, police, &c., are left to the Government of Bengal; and this is not enough for its local requirements. The local Governments are thus placed under the necessity of imposing local cesses. The road cess and the municipal taxes in Bengal owe their existence to this circumstance, and this also accounts for the presence of famine in Bombay and Madras and the chronic poverty of the people in the North-Western Provinces. How, in the teeth of such facts, Sir John Strachey could urge the imposition of new taxes in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces passes our ordinary comprehension.

"It is not admitted on all hands that the construction of canals and railways is, after all, the best means of preventing the recurrence of famines. We have seen them occur in a terrible form in places which had railways in their neighbourhood; while canals are in most instances simply burdens upon the revenues. The supply of water often fails exactly when it is most needed; while the utmost that is gained by them is that lands lying in their immediate vicinity are benefited. The constant recurrence of famines in this country is due not so much to scarcity of food as to its poverty. It is always observed that the failure of the food-crops in one part of the country is amply counterbalanced by the large outturn in another; it is only the poverty of the people which occasions distress. If Sir John is really desirous to prevent a repetition of this calamity, let him seek to increase the wealth of India; or, at least, to effect a reduction of public expenditure. Fresh taxation may help to replenish the empty coffers of Government for a few occasions, but not in the long run. Our rulers are brought to see this almost at every step.

"Bengal is the milch-cow of the Government of India; she is sucked dry as often as there is need of money: she was obliged to pay the greater part of the cost of the wars which the Government waged with Native States; she bore the most of the burden in the Afghan and the Nepal wars. The revenues raised from Bengal far exceed her expenditure; yet the condition of the people is extremely miserable. Much of her income is expended for



the benefit of other provinces. And not content with this act of injustice to Bengal, Government is now intent on imposing on her additional or increased taxation. If the British owe gratitude to any nation, it is to the Bengalis; for all their wealth is derived from Bengal. It was the Bengalis who brought them here, and having assisted them in various ways, made them the sovereign power in India. It is open to doubt whether British power would have survived the shock it received in 1857 if the Bengalis had not remained firm in their loyalty during that crisis. There can be no palliation of its guilt if, by a repetition of such acts, Government perpetuates its injustice towards Bengal."

13. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 23rd March, dwells, in a long letter, on the virtues and munificent charities of Babu Laksman Prasad Garga, the zemindar of Mahishadal, in the Midnapore district. He is a model zemindar and a patron of learning and education. Oppression is not known among his tenantry. Government is earnestly besought to confer on him the title of Rajah Bahadur.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
March 23rd, 1877.  
Circulation about 1,168.

14. Another correspondent of the same paper asks Government to retain in Jehanabad the services of Babu Rámrénu Ghosh, the energetic Inspector of Police in the Burdwan district. He is an able detective officer; and it is not wise to transfer him elsewhere at a time when robberies are not unfrequently taking place.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

15. The *Samáj Darpan*, of the 23rd March, remarks that the system of punishments under the criminal laws, before which all are equal, is not suited to the present state of native society. The same treatment is accorded to a Brahmin as to a Sudra, to a weak as to a strong man, and to a hardy as to a delicately nurtured person. This equality of punishment, besides being productive of different effects upon different persons, affects unfavorably men of respectable position; who find it extremely difficult to regain their place in society after the termination of their period of punishment.

SAMAJ DARPAN,  
March 23rd, 1877.  
Circulation about 460.

16. The *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 23rd March, dwells on the inconvenience which is occasioned to native passengers, from there being no waiting or refreshment rooms attached to the Nulhati and Azimgunge railway stations. The attention of the local public is directed to the matter.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PRATINIDHI,  
March 23rd, 1877.

17. "It is to be regretted," observes the *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 24th March, "that Government takes but little trouble to enquire whether the people actually derive any benefit from the appointment of Honorary Magistrates. We frequently receive complaints of oppression and injustice on their parts; and are, therefore, naturally led to infer that competent men are not generally appointed either to this post or to that of Sub-Registrars. Incompetent and old pensioners of Government are often selected for these offices. In most cases they seek to turn the power, with which their position vests them, to their own advantage, and become oppressive. For this reason they do not enjoy the confidence of the public."

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
March 24th 1877.  
Circulation about 300.

18. The same paper thus concludes a notice of the Viceroy's speech in the Senate House:—"In short, it is almost impossible for natives ever to succeed in obtaining equal powers or equally high appointments in the public service with Europeans. We do not wish to reprove Lord Lytton; and have only to observe that it would have been much better, if he had been only a little more explicit, and told us that natives would not be appointed to high offices simply because they could not be trusted and were not yet fit for them."

HINDU HITOISHINI.



DACCA PRAKASH,  
March 25th, 1877.  
Circulation about 300.

SADHARANI,  
March 25th, 1877.  
Circulation about 516.

19. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 25th March, in an editorial on Lord Lytton's speech in the Senate House, makes very nearly the same observations as those noticed in paragraphs 6 and 18 of our last Report.

20. The *Sádháraní*, of the 25th March, makes the following observations in an editorial headed "Famines and the Government of India":—The Government of India is much troubled as to the vast outlay which it is occasionally obliged to incur for the suppression of famines. Owing to the occurrence of adverse seasons, the stoppage of the natural water-courses of the country by the construction of railways and other roads, the inability of Government to forego its opium revenues, the unremunerative character of the irrigation works, the mismanagement of the public works expenditure, the excess of exportation from some provinces, and the absence of sufficient facilities of communication for purposes of internal trade, famines have become an evil of frequent recurrence in India. While on the other hand, unfortunately for the country, she has not had in her rulers a single statesman who could take a comprehensive and practical view of the difficulty. A famine broke out in Orissa, and Sir C. Beadon was ready with his misinterpretation of the principles of political economy. "It is not," he said, "the duty of Government to import grain for relief purposes, for the difficulty would be met by the operation of the natural laws of supply and demand." A third of the entire population of Orissa departed this life, while this experiment was being tried. Then came the Behar famine. A merchant Viceroy, out of deference to the mercantile community, would not prohibit exportation; but this time, not entirely relying on the principles of science, and fearing loss of life from starvation, he purchased such large stores of grain, at such an enormous outlay, that the distressed people could not consume it all. A large quantity of surplus grain was sold at half its cost price; while much of it rotted away at Sahebgunge and other railway stations. An inhuman policy was responsible for the loss of life in Orissa; a policy of reckless indiscretion caused an extravagant outlay in the Behar famine.

A singular policy has been, however, adopted by Sir Richard Temple in dealing with the present famine in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies; of which it would be difficult to tell whether inhumanity or indiscretion forms the leading feature. Its principle is, that those alone who are able to work should be allowed only so much food as would enable them to keep body and soul together. The chief merit of this policy is that, whereas in the Orissa famine there were deaths because no relief was granted, in the present case people are being put to death by a slow process of starvation; and what shall we call this policy—inhuman or ignorant?

SADHARANI.

21. The same paper strongly condemns the dilatory manner in which the authorities of the Education Department do their duties respecting the vernacular scholarship examinations. In some divisions, the subjects and the standards have not been yet announced, although nearly one-third of the working days of the year have already passed away. It is to be regretted that, while such carelessness on the part of the superior authorities generally passes unnoticed, the overworked teachers, who are required to prepare young lads in the large number of difficult subjects required for the examination, are severely taken to task if the results are not satisfactory.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
March 26th, 1877.  
Circulation about 700.

22. We take the following from an article in the *Soma Prakásh*, of the 26th March, entitled "An Indian Viceroy :"—"India might be happy, and forget all her miseries, if she had an able Governor to rule over her, and



one who sought her real good. But Providence has almost denied her this privilege. In the days of the East India Company, in Lord Bentinck she found a sincere well-wisher; and after a long time in Lord Canning. But we cannot say this of any one of his successors. The days of Lord Elgin were few in India, and were spent in perpetually travelling from one place to another. He did not find any leisure to leave any memorial of direct good done; nor could we judge whether he had any such ambition. Sir John Lawrence was not a man of remarkable talents; by perseverance and a combination of favorable circumstances he attained the highest post in the country. While devoid of any qualifications of the highest order, he had, on the contrary, a number of prejudices. He had no affection for the natives of India; and what good he did was, therefore, only on behalf of the Europeans. If he had been as powerful as Lord Dalhousie, the country might have suffered. Lord Mayo's time was taken up with hunting excursions and festivities. He was ruled by the members of his council, who did not regard the children of the soil with favor, and thought their claims to equality with Europeans as sheer impudence; and so every effort was made to gag their mouths. Lord Northbrook was the only Viceroy that was not ruled by his council. He saw everything for himself; but having been trained up in trade, he did not, to any sufficient degree, possess those superior qualifications which are so necessary in a ruler. Hence he was led to commit certain blunders; and India, instead of obtaining any good at his hand, had to suffer in some respects.

"Nor have the prospects brightened under his successor, Lord Lytton. The few occasions on which he has given any proof of his statesmanship have exceedingly disappointed us. First, the Imperial Assemblage would not have been held at Delhi, if Lord Lytton had any real affection for the country. It was at a time when other portions of the land were desolated by a dire famine, a fearful storm-wave, and pestilences. Then, again, he showed a spirit adverse to our interests by not only not announcing the elevation of natives to superior appointments in the public service, as had been expected, but by declaring that they were not to be given such appointments. We do not know the purpose for which they were compelled to endure this gratuitous disappointment. In the next place, the same sentiment was emphatically expressed in his recent speech in the Senate House, although any expression of opinion on this matter was quite uncalled for on the occasion.

"Does Lord Lytton expect that his speech will deter natives from seeking high appointments? or does he want them to be quiet, knowing that, because Government has no intention of acceding to their demands, their efforts must prove abortive? Is it a matter in which our rulers pride themselves, that they exclude a weak people from all share in the administration of their country? Nor are the natives, as he must know, unfit to hold any high appointment. The members of his council are doubtless responsible for producing in his mind any impression of their unfitness.

"It is clear from all these considerations that India has had but few able and well-meaning Viceroys." The editor, therefore, proposes the introduction of some test, which, if adopted, may guide the authorities in England in the selection of properly qualified men for this important position. This is not to be found in the possession of any aristocratic title. It should be ruled that those only, who have carefully studied Indian affairs and shown an interest in this country by speaking in its behalf in Parliament, are fit to



be appointed to this office. If this cannot be done, it is better to abolish the office altogether."

SOMA PRAKASH,  
March 28th, 1877.  
Circulation about 700.

URDU GUIDE,  
March 24th, 1877.  
Circulation about 400.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
March 28th, 1877.  
Circulation about 500.

23. In an editorial headed "Rajah Harish Chandra and the British Government," the same paper makes the same observations as those noticed in paragraph 3 of our last Report from the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 15th March.

24. The *Urdu Guide* regrets to find our present Minister of Finance pursuing that same course, which one of his predecessors did, towards the income tax; for, besides the existence of an already heavy debt, and the large interest to be paid on it, another loan is contemplated. The Government of India gets a man out from London, on an exceedingly large salary, gives him a grand title and calls him Finance Minister; his work being at the end of the year to abolish the posts held by (say) 50 natives, the incomes of which vary from Rs. 5 to Rs. 25, to make room for half-a-dozen Europeans on salaries of Rs. 1,000 each; without any respect to the balance of accounts.

25. The *Behār Bandhu* is exceedingly rejoiced to learn, that so exalted a person as Lady Lytton has condescended to visit the *pardānashīn* ladies of respectable families in their *zenānās*, and urge them to cultivate a knowledge of reading and writing, and turn their attention to education in general. Her Excellency recently visited the houses of Chandramādhav Basu and others, vakeels of the High Court, and was received with the most profound respect. Have the women of this country been really found worthy of a friendly visit from a person so exalted, intelligent, and judicious as Lady Lytton?

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

JOHN ROBINSON,

The 31st March 1877.

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the 31st March 1877.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bhārat Shramjībī" ...	Barāhanagar ...	Monthly ...	Choitra, 1283 B.S.
2	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ...	Kākinīā, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	22nd February 1877.
3	"Bishwa Suhrid" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	14th and 21st March 1877.
4	"Hindu Ranjikā" ...	Beauleah, Rājshāhye ...	Ditto ...	21st ditto.
5	"Bhārat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
6	"Amrita Bāzār Patrikā" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	22nd ditto.
7	"Samāj Darpan" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
8	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
9	"Pratikār" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
10	"Moorshedabad Patrikā" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
11	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
12	"Grāmbārtā Prakāshikā" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
15	"Howrah Hitakarī" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
16	"Sādhārānī" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
17	"Soma Prakāsh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
18	"Sambād Bhāskar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
19	"Sulabha Samāchār" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
20	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	24th, 28th, and 29th March 1877.
21	"Sambād Prabhākar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	17th to 23rd March 1877.
22	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	24th to 29th ditto.
23	"Jām-Jahān-numā" (in Persian.) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	23rd March 1877.
24	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
25	"Behār Bandhu" (in Hindi) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.

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